

she did so much more. She came to my office with several years of experience working for her home State Congressman, the Honorable Clyde C. Holloway of Louisiana, and the training that she received there served me very well over the next 18 years. On that first day, my office was one of the few that had staplers, copy paper, and wastepaper baskets—all because Dorothy already knew what to expect coming into a brand-new office. During my 6 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, Dorothy oversaw my office operation and my schedule; she kept us running, paid attention to the details and made sure that everyone from Idaho got a dose of Southern charm. We often say that she is from southern Idaho, way southern Idaho.

When I was elected to the Senate in 1998, Dorothy came with me to start up another office on the other side of the Hill. But, by that time, her family priorities had shifted and after a few months, she realized that she needed to be home with her young son and soon after she had another on the way. It was hard to say good-bye the first time, and it was terrific when an opportunity presented itself that was perfect to bring her back to the office. She has contributed in the second go-round in the communications field, and it is difficult to recognize that she means it this time when she says she is retiring.

Dorothy's priorities have always been very clear. She and her husband Bill have a young family, and she has been able to arrange her schedule to be with them as much as possible. But this year has been very trying for her as she has faced the loss of her beloved mother and eldest sister. She says that it has brought those priorities into even sharper focus, and I cannot argue with her desire to spend time at home, have the opportunity to visit family who live far away and enjoy more freedom to accomplish all that makes her most happy.

We will miss her deeply, and for far more reasons than the delicious double chocolate Ghirardelli brownies that she frequently brings to the office to share. Her positive spirit and support have left an indelible mark, and I wish her all the best.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### USGS ALBUQUERQUE SEISMOLOGICAL LABORATORY

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the USGS Albuquerque Seismological Laboratory, ASL, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. I would like to congratulate the ASL for 50 years of distinguished service to the State of New Mexico.

From its quiet location just outside of Albuquerque on the Isleta Pueblo, ASL has become an indispensable hub for seismological research over the past 50 years. Today, it is at the center of several globe-spanning networks

that facilitate the sharing and analysis of seismological data. ASL researchers help design and deploy the Global Seismograph Network, which now connects over 150 monitoring stations around the world. The authoritative research conducted there contributes immeasurably to the field of seismology.

The real importance of ASL's research cannot be overstated. ASL's role in the emerging fields of earthquake and tsunami monitoring is invaluable for developing tools to save lives when natural disasters occur. Additionally, ASL provides vital data used to help monitor and detect nuclear tests by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization, CTBTO.

I thank the ASL for its important contributions to both the scientific community and the public good and wish it success in the next 50 years and more.●

##### TRIBUTE TO JESSIE RUTH WALTON AND FRANCIS JAMES WALTON

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it is crucial that we never forget to honor our veterans for their service and dedication to this nation. As the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I would like to recognize and applaud the service of Mr. Francis James Walton and Mrs. Jessie Ruth Walton, both of whom served our Nation during World War II and turn 90 years old this year.

Mrs. Jessie Ruth Walton was born in Exeter, VA, on May 31, 1921. Heeding the call to service, she enlisted in the Navy WAVES in 1943 and went on to serve her country during World War II as a pharmacist, dispensing needed medicine for the troops in Washington, DC, and in Long Beach, CA.

Mr. James Walton, Jessie's husband, was born in Cadillac, MI, on July 14, 1921. He enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 1941. He served in Carlson's Raiders of the 2d Marine Battalion, an elite unit that was among the first U.S. special operations forces to see combat in World War II. Jim's time in the Marines included deployment to the South Pacific, where he fought in Bougainville and Guadalcanal Island, contributing to a strategic victory that turned the tide for the Allied forces in the Pacific. A valiant warrior, he spent 30 days fighting behind enemy lines, 30 days that must have felt a lifetime.

Following World War II, Jim returned to Michigan, where he obtained a college degree and married Jessie Ruth Meade. After his time in the service, Jim began teaching and ultimately found a rewarding career at General Motors, where he worked for 30 years before retiring. Together, Jim and Jessie raised a family of four children—James, Susan, Julie, and Jane—who have picked up the mantle of their parents in service to their communities in a range of capacities. In particular, I am delighted to note that their son Jim serves as president of Centralia

College in my home State of Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Walton are also fortunate to have 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

I am delighted to extend birthday wishes and gratitude to the Waltons on this joyous occasion. I wish them and their family all the best as they celebrate this wonderful milestone.●

##### TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE WHEELER

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to an exceptional teacher from New Hampshire.

Stephanie Wheeler has been chosen to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This award honors teachers who have made exceptional contributions to their students and to their profession. I congratulate Ms. Wheeler for her outstanding accomplishments and commitment to New Hampshire's students.

Our country's competitiveness in the global economy requires us to foster the development of our students in math and science. Educators like Stephanie are essential to this effort because they are able to engage students and help them develop a love for these important subjects. I am pleased to see Stephanie honored for her work.

Stephanie has been the title I mathematics supervisor and coach at Wilson Elementary School in Manchester for the last 4 years. In this position, Stephanie oversees all title I mathematics certified instructors and monitors the implementation of the mathematics curriculum for teachers in kindergarten through fifth grade. She also teaches mathematics daily to second, third, and fifth graders.

Prior to her time at Wilson Elementary School, Stephanie spent 5 years as the district title I math coach for the Manchester School District. She also served as a middle school math teacher for both the Bedford and Laconia school districts for 9 years.

In addition to her responsibilities as an educator and title I supervisor, Stephanie has presented workshops at local, state, and national mathematics conferences. She also serves as the elementary representative on the New Hampshire Teachers of Mathematics Board of Directors. Her dedication to improving mathematics education in New Hampshire and throughout the country by sharing her knowledge with other educators is truly commendable.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the most prestigious honor awarded to mathematics and science teachers in the country. As a former teacher myself, I am especially proud of the role that Stephanie plays in educating the next generation of Americans. I am honored to recognize Stephanie Wheeler's exceptional dedication to her students and her subject and to congratulate her for her commitment to excellence in teaching.●